

the discovery of approximately half the currently known objects in the area known as the Kuiper Belt.

Dr. Millis will remain an active pillar of the Flagstaff community. He will work with Flagstaff-area business leaders committed to improving the greater Flagstaff area and the State of Arizona by bringing together talent and resources to provide leadership on economic and quality of life issues in the region. I wish Dr. Millis the best of luck and look forward to seeing the greater Flagstaff community benefit from the energy and leadership that Dr. Millis provided to the Lowell Observatory for the past 40 years.

A TRIBUTE IN RECOGNITION OF
OFFICER JOSE ENRIQUE VERA

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 10, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Officer Jose Enrique Vera, a trusted community partner in Brooklyn's safety.

Officer Vera, a native of La Ceiba, Honduras, migrate with his family to the United States in 1975 at the age of 12. He attended the August Martin High School in Queens, New York, graduated from Farmingdale State University with a major in Business Administration, and graduated from the Police Academy in 1991.

Officer Vera was assigned to the 80th Precinct in the Clinton Hill section of Brooklyn. He later worked in Brooklyn South Borough and the 84th Precinct.

Officer Vera now works on the Community Affairs Bureau, where he has expanded his role in working with the community as a Brooklyn North Crime Prevention Liaison, educating the community on personal safety and identity theft.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Officer Jose Enrique Vera, an individual committed to bringing diverse communities together and an inspiration to all of New York.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Officer Jose Enrique Vera.

HONORING MARTIN KAIDO FOR
HIS APPOINTMENT TO THE
UNITED STATES MILITARY
ACADEMY

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 10, 2009

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a young man from Georgia's 11th Congressional District who has distinguished himself as an excellent student and leader and has committed to serving his country. I am proud to announce that Martin Kaido from Marietta, Georgia, has received an appointment to the United States Military Academy.

For the past year, Martin has attended West Point's Preparatory School in Fort Monmouth, New Jersey. Martin worked very hard during his year in prep school, and the results speak for themselves.

Before the prep school, Martin attended St. Pius X Catholic High School. Martin was very involved athletically at St. Pius, participating in both wrestling and football, and has continued to excel in sports at the West Point Prep School. In addition to his scholastic and athletic achievements, Martin has also attained the rank of Eagle Scout and has even served as an assistant scoutmaster.

Further, Martin is very involved with his church, where he serves as a Faith Formation Teacher, a Eucharistic Minister, an Atlanta Chorister's Guild Camp Counselor, and participates in the Church Teen Group. He also volunteers for the St. Francis Table, the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store, and Habitat for Humanity.

Martin Kaido is an incredibly well-rounded young man, and I am honored to have the privilege to nominate him for an appointment to the U.S. Military Academy. I ask that my colleagues take this time to congratulate Martin as well as his parents, Michael and Mary Kaido, for his accomplishments. It is because of dedicated young people like Martin that America has the finest military in the world. Our Nation is fortunate to have his service.

FLAG DAY JUNE 14, 2009

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 10, 2009

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, the 14th of June is an important day for all Americans, the day we celebrate the American Flag. The American Flag is a proud and prominent symbol of our great Nation and celebrating this important icon shows respect for the millions of Americans who consider the flag a representation of our nation's most fundamental traditions and beliefs.

As a member of Congress, I feel great pride when I see our striking stars and stripes flying over the majestic United States Capitol. Whether the Flag is flying among the mountains of southern West Virginia or above our nation's capitol, it is a sign of our nation's commitment to working together across our vast and diverse land to create one great nation. Our flag flies in every state and around the World at our embassies in foreign lands.

Today, the flag consists of thirteen horizontal stripes, seven red, alternating with six white, reminding us always of our Nation's humble beginnings as just thirteen colonies. The stars illustrate our one country with 50 independent and unique states each with a separate state government. Together, the stars and stripes reflect our efforts to create a unified nation with united principles joined together under one Flag for over 200 years.

In 1947, President Harry S. Truman signed legislation requesting National Flag Day become an annual event, and since that day we have been celebrating our stately Flag every year.

On Capitol Hill, the United States Flag is celebrated everyday. Flags are flown over the Capitol each day of the year in honor of birthdays, retirements, and, as well as in the memory of loved ones lost. These flags are then shipped directly from congressional offices with an official certificate from the Architect of the Capitol, declaring the date and occasion for which the flag was flown.

I ask that you join me in supporting House Resolution 420, thereby celebrating this American symbol, honoring our country, our men and women who have served and are currently serving in the United States Armed Forces, our veterans who bravely fought beneath flag, and all citizens who proudly fly the American Flag to show their support for our great country, and the ideals this great Flag represents.

ON THE PASSAGE OF H.R. 2200,
THE TRANSPORTATION SECURITY
ADMINISTRATION AUTHORIZATION ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 10, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, today I rise to voice my concerns with the Transportation Security Administration Authorization Act. While I supported this bill, I would like to make clear that I had concerns with the air cargo security language contained in Section 201 of H.R. 2200 and hope that as the bill moves forward that this provision is changed.

The 9/11 Commission recommended that the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) be given the necessary staff and funding in order to screen 100 percent of all air cargo by August, 2010. Currently there are serious deficiencies in the screening of inbound air cargo, which accounts for nearly half of the air cargo carried on passenger airplanes each year. Section 201 of H.R. 2200 creates a significant delay of two years until 100 percent of cargo must be screened from the enactment of this bill, even though there was a year left on the original deadline as passed when Congress implemented the 9/11 Commission recommendations. It makes no sense to grant an extension with over a year until the original deadline.

Outbound passenger air cargo is screened at a much higher rate, but in order to be fully secure, inbound cargo must be thoroughly checked as well. As the United States continues to confront the threats of terrorism since September 2001, we must be as cautious and careful as possible with our transportation security net to ensure that passengers on commercial airplanes are safe, and that cargo on airplanes is thoroughly checked.

Meeting the 100 percent screening mandate presents significant challenges in both funding and manpower, however, Congress should not be diluting the requirements recommended by the 9/11 Commission and should be providing the TSA with the required resources to meet the deadline, instead of extending the deadline into the future. In doing so, we will increase our safety and security as well as fully implement the 9/11 Commission's recommendation for air cargo.